



countdown

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STS-125 astronauts to arrive Friday for May 11 launch



◆ Shuttle Update:

On Friday, Atlantis' seven astronauts are scheduled to arrive at Kennedy at about 5 p.m. for the

May 11 launch of STS-125. NASA TV will provide live coverage as Commander Scott Altman makes a brief statement to media. NASA will provide continuous STS-125 updates online, including a webcast and a blog at:

<http://www.nasa.gov/shuttle>.

On launch day, a blog will update the countdown beginning at 8:30 a.m. Originating from KSC, the blog is the definitive Internet source for information leading up to launch. During the mission, visitors to NASA's shuttle Web site can read about the crew's progress and watch the spacewalks live. As Atlantis' flight wraps up, NASA will offer a blog detailing the spacecraft's return to Earth.

Live updates to the NASA News Twitter feed will be added throughout the shuttle launch countdown from KSC's firing room. To access the NASA News Twitter feed, visit:

<http://www.twitter.com/nasa>.

◆ **ISS Update:** On May 27, Russian cosmonaut Roman Romanenko, European Space Agency astronaut Frank De Winne and Canadian Space Agency astronaut Bob Thirsk will launch on a Soyuz spacecraft from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. They will arrive at the International Space Station May 29, joining the station's Commander Gennady Padalka and Flight Engineers Mike Barratt and Koichi Wakata of the Japan Aerospace Exploration

Briefing Thursday to discuss upcoming six-person crew on ISS

■ **Reminder** — On Thursday, KSC will mark this year's National Day of Prayer with an hour-long observance at 11 a.m. in the Training Auditorium.

Agency. The six men will form the Expedition 20 crew, the station's first six-person crew. This mission also will be the first time crew members aboard represent all five ISS partners.

NASA will discuss the inauguration of six-person crew operations aboard the ISS in a briefing scheduled for 2 p.m. EDT Thursday at the Johnson Space Center. The briefing will be broadcast live on NASA Television.

■ **NASA News** — NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va., has awarded a contract to Northrop Grumman of Redondo Beach, Calif., to support the design, manufacture, assembly, test and calibration of the Clouds and the Earth's Radiant Energy System, or CERES, Flight Model 6 instrument. It will fly on the National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System, or NPOESS, C1 mission.

The CERES instruments are broadband radiometers that scan Earth, observing reflected shortwave and Earth-emitted radiance. These observations are used to measure the time and space distributions of incoming energy from the sun and outgoing thermal and reflected energy from Earth (known as Earth's radiation budget). The measurements will improve models of Earth's climate system.

■ **KEA-40: Ares I-X Status** — The KEA will host an Ares I-X status from 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesday in the Training Auditorium. Presented by Jon Cowart, KSC's deputy mission manager for Ares I-X, this presentation will highlight the latest schedule and issues for the upcoming Ares I-X rocket. NASA and contractor personnel are invited to attend.

Questions and comments should be sent to *KSC-Engineering-Academy@mail.nasa.gov*. To view future listings, or video/PDF versions of past KEA events, please visit:

<http://kea.ksc.nasa.gov/>. Please check the Web site for updates as events are subject to change.

■ **"Tools for Today's Professional" Seminar** — Early registration ends today for the Space Coast Society of Women Engineers seminar, "Tools for Today's Professional." The full-day seminar will be held May 14 at the Harris Customer Briefing Center (CBC) in Melbourne. Many exciting sessions are planned on a variety of subjects.

You can find information about the 16 sessions at: <http://www.swe-sc.org/Seminar>. For additional information, please contact Kathy Whitcomb at kathy.w.whitcomb@usa-spaceops.com or 861-7861.

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